

NEXUS FILE SERVER

MDFS FOR NEXUS NETWORKING

The SJ Research Modular Disc File Server (MDFS) has over the years proved to be the most advanced, reliable and secure file server available for Econet.

Since the introduction of Nexus networking SJ has had many requests from users who would like to add a dedicated file server to their new Nexus network. We have listened to these comments and as a result have re-engineered the MDFS for use on a Nexus network. In keeping with the SJ philosophy of providing its customers with a smooth upgrade path, the Nexus file server is not only available as a new product but also as an upgrade to existing MDFS owners.

Dedicated

The Nexus file server is a dedicated unit providing your Nexus network with file server and printer server facilities. If you currently have Archimedes computers dedicated to these tasks then some or all of them will be released to become usable client stations.

Reliable

The Nexus file server is based on the same hardware as the MDFS which has an unparalleled reputation for reliability. Many users leave their MDFS running for 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for months on end.

Secure

The Nexus file server has a keyswitch on the front panel. Until the key is inserted and turned to the 'System' position it is impossible to perform sensitive management functions such as accessing the password file or changing the space allocated to users.

Advanced access control

The Nexus file server software implements all the most popular features of the MDFS software, in particular the very flexible control over users' access to files and directories. For example, it is possible to set up directories with ownership shared between a group of users or to place files in users' directories which they cannot alter.

Large storage capacity

The Nexus file server software has been upgraded so that it can provide up to 480Mb of hard disc storage. Hard discs are formatted using SJ Research's own "efficient" format which ensures that much more of the 480Mb is actually available for storage of users' files than is possible on discs formatted to the ADFS standard.

Tape backup

The optional 120Mb tape streamer is available for backing up hard discs to tape. The backup can be set to occur automatically overnight. Single files can be retrieved from tape without the need to take the file server offline.

Two built in printer servers

The Nexus file server has both a parallel and serial port and so can be used to provide simultaneous spooled network access to two printers.

BBC compatibility

The Nexus file server is provided with an Econet socket which can be used to link it with an existing Econet network of BBCs via an Econet bridge.

Training

The price of a new file server includes two places on one of SJ's file server management courses run at our offices in Cambridge.

Network utilities

The MDFS is supplied with a library of useful utility software to aid the system manager.

Technical specification

Hardware	6Mz Z-80 processor with 256Kb of RAM and 8Kb of ROM.
Networks	Socket for connection to a Nexus hub. Socket for connection to an Econet bridge.
Hard discs	Supports up to 8 logical partitions of 60Mb giving a total storage capacity of 480Mb. The logical partitions can be from any of up to 4 physical SCSI discs, two of which may be fitted inside the file server.
Floppy disc	One 800k 3.5" floppy disc, intended mainly for software distribution/upgrade and maintenance, but also accessible on-line if desired.
Users	Supports up to 2048 individually named users. Up to 80 of these users can be logged on simultaneously.
Tape	The optional 120Mb tape drive allows any two of the logical partitions to be backed up at the same time. Automatic, unattended backups may be scheduled.
Printers	Serial: RS-232 9-pin 'D-type' socket supports XON/XOFF and CTS/RTS handshakes. Parallel: 25-way 'D-type' PC/Archimedes standard.

SJ Research has a policy of continual improvements. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information on this sheet, it cannot be guaranteed.